

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 01784 260924Z

43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 COME-00 /016 W

----- 015473

R 241300Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6048

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECRP, MR

SUBJECT: CERT: FOREIGN ECONOMIC TRENDS REPORT (FET)

REF: STATE 177334

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON PROPOSED S/IG RECOMMENDATION FOR FET. WHEN INSPECTORS MADE RECOMMENDATION THAT NOFEKCHOTT BEGIN PREPARING GET AS PART OF CERP REQUIREMENT THEY LOOKED ONLY AT BENEFITS AND NOT AT COSTS INVOLVED. EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO DO MANY THINGS THAT IT DOES NOT NOW HAVE MANPOWER TO DO. TO DRAFT COMPLETE AND VALID ECONOMIC TRENDS REPORT FOR MAURITANIA WOULD REQUIRE APPROXIMATELY ONE MAN-WEEK OF WORK. REPORT HAS NEVER BEEN DONE BEFORE HERE; THUS IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO UPDATE PREVIOUS REPORT. CURRENT ECONOMIC DATA FOR MAURITANIA ARE WOEFULLY LACKING. MAN-WEEK SPENT ON FET MUST NECESSARILY BE TIME SUBTRACTED FROM OTHER PROJECTS NOW BEING DONE BY EMBASSY. (VERY TIGHT STAFFING OF THIS MISSION DOES NOT ALLOW FOR SLACK OR FREE TIME. IN ADDITION, FET WOULD HAVE TO BE PREPARED BY ONE OF TWO SENIOR OFFICERS IN STATE CONTINGENT. INSPECTORS THEMSELVES NOTED AMBASSADOR AND DCM ARE ALREADY FULLY OCCUPIED AND STRONGLY RECOMMENDED DEPARTMENT INSURE ASSIGNMENT OF EXPERIENCED FSO-5 TO SUPPORT THEM IN FUTURE.)

2. IF WASHINGTON END USERS BELIEVE THAT FET IS SUFFICIENTLY IMPORTANT THAT IT SHOULD TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER CERTAIN OTHER EMBASSY ACTIVITIES, WE WILL BE HAPPY TO COMPLY WITH REQUEST. BUT AT TIME WHEN REPORTING AND
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PAGE 02 NOUAKC 01784 260924Z

ACTION REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE DEPARTMENT CONTINGENT OF

MISSION ARE GROWING, DEPARTMENT CANNOT REASONABLY CONTINUE TO LEVY ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS WITHOUT INCREASING SUBSTANTIVE STAFF OR ELIMINATING PREVIOUS REQUIREMENTS. IF DECISION TO LEVY MET AS CERP REQUIREMENT IS FINAL, QUESTION OF DUE DATE IS NOT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FROM STANDPOINT OF EMBASSY. THERE IS NO INDICATION OUR STAFFING SITUATION WILL BE ANY BETTER SIX MONTHS OR EVEN TWELVE MONTHS FROM NOW THAN IT IS TODAY. GIRM ECONOMIC DATA ARE ALWAYS HARD TO LOCATE AND WE DO NOT FORESEE ANY IMPROVEMENT IN THIS SITUATION. EMBASSY WORKLOAD, ALLOWING FOR MINOR SEASONAL VARIATIONS, CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO INCREASE.

HANDYSIDE

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